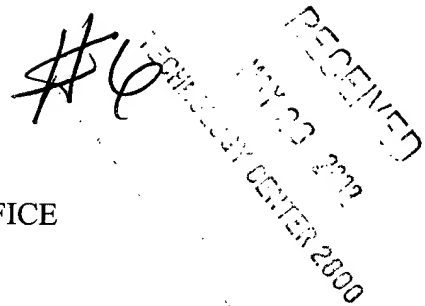


P20358.A05



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Roland MAYER et al.

Group Art Unit: 2852

Appln. No. : 09/775,628

Examiner: Unknown

Filed : February 5, 2001

For : ELASTIC TRANSFER BELT

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

RECEIVED
MAY 30 2002

Sir :

TC 1700

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. Sections 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98,

Applicants submit the following documents for the Examiner's consideration:

Applicants submit a copy of a European Search Report dated April 22, 2002 conducted in European Patent Application No. 00127028.9-2314-, which is a counterpart of the above-captioned application. In particular, the European Examiner cited:

(1) German Patent Application No. 42 20 682 C1, published December 23, 1993, as an "X" category document (i.e., a document that calls into question of the novelty or inventive step when considered alone). The Examiner noted the entire document as relevant to claims 1 - 14 of the European application. Moreover, Applicants note that the Annex to the Search Report identifies U.S. Patent No. 5,355,593 as a U.S. patent family member of the cited German document. However, as both of these were cited in a previously submitted Information Disclosure Statement filed with the

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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on May 7, 2001, no copies of these documents are enclosed;

(2) German Patent Application No. 196 03 640 A1, published August 8, 1996, as an "X" category document. The Examiner noted the entire document as relevant to claims 1, 6-10, and 13 of the European application. Moreover, Applicants note that the Annex to the Search Report identifies U.S. Patent Nos. 5,690,791 and 5,849,156 as U.S. patent family members of the cited German document. As the German document and U.S. Patent No. 5,690,791 were cited in a previously submitted Information Disclosure Statement filed with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on May 7, 2001, no copies of these documents are enclosed. However, for the Examiner's convenience, Applicants submit herewith a copy of U.S. Patent No. 5,849,156 issued to Vakkius December 15, 1998.

(3) German Patent Application No. 197 08 967 a1, published September 10, 1998, as an "A" category document (i.e., a document relevant to the technological background of the invention). The Examiner noted column 2, line 32 - column 3, line 8, and figure 1 as relevant to claims 1 - 14 of the European application. Applicants note that, as this document was cited in a previously submitted Information Disclosure Statement filed with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on May 7, 2001, no copy of this document is enclosed.

A copy of the above-listed document (including a copy of the European Search Report) is enclosed, as is a completed copy of the PTO-1449 Form listing this document. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to consider this document and to indicate such consideration by returning a signed and initialed copy of the PTO-1449 Form with the first official communication.

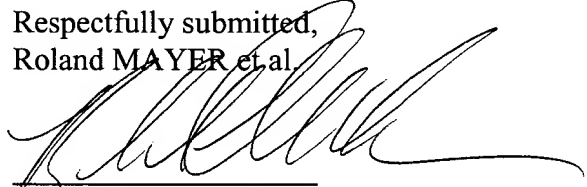
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Applicants note that while this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months from the date of filing, Applicants have not received a first action on the merits from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Accordingly, consideration of the enclosed documents is requested under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b)(3).

However, if the first action on the merits has been mailed prior to the filing date of this Information Disclosure Statement, Applicants hereby authorize the Commissioner to charge any fees necessary to ensure consideration of the documents cited herein to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Should there be any questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Roland MAYER et al.



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May 22, 2002
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